AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) Method for the removal of microbiological contaminants from water comprising the steps of contacting the water with the surface of a surface hydrated alumina (Al_2O_3) medium, which contains a surface density of Al-OH groups sufficient to render the surface of the alumina medium hydrophilic, for a time and under conditions such that a proportion of the microbiological contaminants present in the water are absorbed onto said hydrated alumina medium and removed from the water in a sufficient amount to make the water fit for human use or activity.

2. (canceled)

3. (previously presented) Method according to claim 1 wherein the surface density of Al-OH groups occurs at an average rate of greater than about 1 hydroxyl group per 10 nm^2 of surface area.

4. (previously presented) Method according to claim 3 wherein the surface density of Al-OH groups occurs at an average rate of greater than about 1 hydroxyl group per 2 nm^2.

5. (original) Method according to claim 4 wherein the surface density of Al-OH groups occurs at an average rate of about 1 hydroxyl group per 0.25 nm^2 to about 1 hydroxyl group per 0.18 nm^2.

6. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein the microbiological contaminants is one or more selected from *Cryptosporidium*, *Giardia* or *Escheria. coli.*

7. (previously presented) Method according to claim 6 wherein the microbiological contaminants is *Cryptosporidium*.

8. (currently amended) Method of claim 1 wherein the surface hydrated alumina media is in particulate form.

9. (original) Method according to claim 8 wherein the particulate alumina has a diameter in the range of about 15 mm to about 0.05 mm.

10. (original) Method according to claim 9 wherein the particulate alumina has a diameter in the range of about 1.5 mm to about 0.05 mm.

11-26. (canceled)

27. (currently amended) A method for removing protozoa from water so as to render the water suitable for human use or for use in swimming pools or spa pools, the method comprising contacting the water with the surface of a surface hydrated alumina for a certain period of time and under conditions such that protozoa in the water are absorbed onto the alumina so as to result in a 2 log reduction in the number of protozoa present in the water, the surface hydrated alumina comprising a particle size of about 15 mm to about 0.05 mm and a surface density of Al-OH groups at an average rate of greater than about 1 hydroxyl group per 10 nm^2 of surface area.